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Iran: Majles Sessions

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Near East & South Asia

SUPPLEMENT

Iran: Majles Sessions

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11 Jun 95

95LA0290A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Jun 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] [Boxed item] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding.

After the speeches of three deputies, the speaker of the Majles described the recent statements of the grand leader on 'Ashura and in Friday prayers as very important and condemned the letter of a number of U.S. congressional representatives concerning the imposition of terrorist pressure on Iran and support for the Hypocrites. In continuation, he spoke about and denounced the injustice against the oppressed people of Bosnia and lack of sufficient reaction by the United Nations. It is noteworthy that the details of his speech were published yesterday. Also, prior to the start of yesterday's session, one of the religious mourning reciters recited the tragedy of Karbala. We call to your attention the details of the discussion. [end boxed item]

Mohsen Rasi, Deputy From Miandoab

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Rasi from Miandoab, who said: Today, the greatest threat to the interests of the nations throughout the world is the fellowship of two kinds of savagery, one of which derives from the long history of the past and the wars, hostilities, hatred, and backwardness, and the other stems from contemporary civilization, the frozen, unclear, aimless, and unknown civilization that ignores individuals and societies and beliefs and ideas. The heir of both is global imperialism.

Referring to the wakefulness of the Islamic nation throughout the world that caused the rebellion and anger of the criminal United States, he added: (The United States), by its embargoes, pressures, and threats, has shown its imperialist nature and constant opposition to the Iranian revolution and has started a political and economic war.

Emphasizing the necessity for absolute adherence and obedience to the directives and guidance of the grand leader, which will be constructive and destroy conspiracies, the speaker said: We must conserve, be frugal, and avoid luxuries. We must take economic and financial discipline seriously.

He continued: The payment of salaries and benefits and 2-million-tuman bonuses to certain managers in some companies is contrary to the value system of the revolution and is a clear form of discrimination.

Stating that the entry of smuggled goods must be prevented, the deputy from Miandoab demanded fighting and opposing any sort of discrimination and inequality in the distribution of national revenues in order to support in practice the oppressed stratum of the society.

Supporting the new government foreign currency policies, he thanked the president for developmental investments in his constituent area and added: The existence of potential and talent in the region requires more investments, such as the building of sugar, pasteurized milk, lumber, paper, and other factories.

In conclusion, Rasi thanked the valuable operations and services of the ministers of communication, petroleum, energy, construction jihad, and agriculture in his constituent area.

Nuroddin Now'i-Aqdam, Deputy From Ardabil

The next speaker was Now'i-Aqdam from Ardabil, who mentioned the goal of the 'Ashura uprising to be the lesson of generosity, self-sacrifice, martyrdom, refusal to submit to injustice, exposing the faces of oppressors in the course of history, actual manifestation of the instruction to do good and prevent evil, and frankness with friends and enemies and said: The enemies have always tried to take undue advantage of the superstition that has gradually entered the mourning ceremonies of the Iranian people in order to cloud the content of the 'Ashura uprising, and with it the valuable ideals of the Islamic revolution, and to show them in their opposite light.

He pointed out the wise message of the grand leader of the revolution in this connection last year and added: As an effect of this message, mourners in the province of Ardabil this year, guided by the representative of the religious guardian in the province and with the participation of various strata of the people, informed the mourners about the conspiracies of the enemies.

The deputy from Ardabil then said regarding the U.S. trade embargo against Iran and its failure: Lack of compliance of the U.S. allies with this embargo has created another disgrace for the United States in the world, and the U.S. Government, which intended to isolate Iran, has itself become isolated from its friends in the world.

He added: Now that those hit by the 'Ashura revolution are trying all sorts of tricks to weaken the government of Iran, the government has taken certain initiatives, and with the guidance of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency, one of the most important decisions has been made regarding the smuggling of foreign currency and goods. In particular, entrusting the responsibility for

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this important matter to the Ministry of Information has made the people hopeful and the profiteers worried.

Stating that the recent decisions cannot be a long-term stratagem for the Islamic Republic, he pointed out: The existence of a cash flow of more than 600 trillion rials [R] in the hands of a small percentage of people in the society is the main cause of this problem. With the cooperation of the government and the Majles, in the long-term strategy, attention must be paid to the following points: 1. creation of the necessary capabilities of the banking system of the country to attract the cash flow; 2. directing the cash flow toward production and the creation of jobs; 3. the establishment of balance in government investments and severe decrease in the expenditures of organizations; and 4. clearly devising a proper, advanced tax system.

In conclusion, the speaker made reminders to the executive officials of the country.

Firuz Ahmadi, Deputy From Moghan

The last pre-agenda speaker was Ahmadi the deputy from Moghan, who offered his condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn and said: The United States should know that the children of Khomeyni are the same people who continue the red line of martyrdom, and an economic embargo will not harm their will and determination to fight imperialism.

Emphasizing the alertness of the people in fighting the enemies, he said: The officials and statesmen must inform the people on time, keep the war conditions in mind, justly improve what we have, and avoid unnecessary waste.

The information system of the country requires essential revision, and it must be made non-governmental and perform under the supervision of the leader and guardian to protect the entire regime. To ensure the health of the Islamic regime, the actions of high government officials must be overseen by pious individuals.

He mentioned the income of a rural family as 156,000 tumans in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] and said: This is while the average expenditures of such a family in the same year were estimated at 193,000 tumans, which is 23 percent more than the income of the rural family. The high prices of fertilizers, pesticides, and livestock medicine do not match any standard of development in the Second Plan.

Asking the Plan and Budget Organization to subsidize sugar beet farmers in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] and 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996], Ahmadi said: Most unfortunately, following the recent rains, heavy damage has been inflicted on the Moghan farmers. Experts estimate that R5 billion worth of agricultural products have been completely destroyed.

He then made a reminder to the Ministry of Health about shortages of health needs and physicians in his constituency.

Ratifications

Proposal on Higher Education Without Competitive Entrance Examination

The first item on the agenda of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of the examination of the first round of discussions of the Education Committee regarding the proposal on higher education without a competitive college entrance examination.

As the last opponent, Engineer Nabavi said: Under the conditions of limited resources, the elimination of the competitive college entrance examination is not a good suggestion. The Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution began a plan in 1370. This proposal is contrary to those ratifications. This proposal is not for the oppressed regions, but when the cost must be paid by the individuals, only the wealthy can make use of it. With the competitive college entrance examination, we have allocated 40 percent to the combatants. Should they have to pay these costs? Is Mr. Zare', the vice president of the Free University, prepared to have the Free University without the competitive entrance examination?

Mr. Ravani also spoke as a supporter and said: An examination cannot determine the scientific and practical competence of students. This proposal has priority in the oppressed regions. Instead of sending students abroad, the students spend their money on their education in the country.

Proposal To Protect and Use Marine Life Resources

The second item on the agenda was the second round of discussions by the Agricultural Affairs Committee regarding the proposal to protect and use the marine life resources of the Islamic Republic of Iran (proposal to use the resources of the Caspian Sea), the articles of which were ratified.

According to Article 1, the marine life resources under the governance and control of the Islamic Republic of Iran are a natural resource of the country, and their protection and preservation is the duty of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The management of the protection and use of these resources for the national interests of the country will be carried out on the basis of this law and its implemental regulations.

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According to Article 2, the implemental domain of this law and its implemental regulations, with the exception of those instances explicitly cited in this law, are all the waters under the rule and control of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including internal, border, and sea waters.

According to Article 5, registration of fishing vessels by the Organization of Ports and Shipping shall be subject to the written agreement of the Iranian Fishery Company.

Also, according to Article 6, no actual or legal person may engage in use of the marine life in the waters cited in Article 2 of this law without a valid permit. The requirements for the issuance, suspension, cancellation, duration of validity, and the procedures for renewal or transfer of all or part and the amount if tariffs for the fishing license shall be determined by the implemental bylaws of this law.

On the Sidelines of the Majles

In a proposal offered to the Majles, 40 Majles deputies requested a ban on smoking in public places. This proposal was submitted to the Majles yesterday.

13 Jun 95

95LA0294A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Jun 95 pp 11, 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles met in open session yesterday. We direct your attention to the beginning of the proceedings.

Seyyed Mostafa Rowhani, Deputy From Mahallat

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Rowhani, deputy from Mahallat. In his speech he said:

Our departed imam knew and described the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran well. He said that Iran is better than the nation of the time of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and the nation of Iraq at the time of 'Ali (peace be upon him) and Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him). Our people want Islamic organizations. They want officials to stop discrimination and bribery. If the use of connections and bribery prevails, Islam will no longer prevail. If Islam prevails, much dissatisfaction will be eliminated and society will not be so vulnerable.

Rowhani noted that today is a day of glory of Islam and the Islamic system and a day of disgrace for the United States and its new world order. He thanked the government for its fight against selling at high prices, which has had good effects in reducing the rates for foreign exchange and gold.

He then asked for help with regard to the problems and difficulties in his electoral district from the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment, and Medical Education with regard to procuring credits to build the Mahallat Hospital, and from the Ministry of the Reconstruction Jihad with regard to the procurement of drinking water for the rural people of his electoral district.

Rajab Rahmani, Deputy From Takestan

The next speaker was Rahmani, deputy from Takestan. He thanked the Islamic nation of Iran for its extensive mourning observances for Hoseyn and the founder of the Islamic revolution, despite the hardships and difficulties. He said: This vast turnout proved to the people of the world that the nation of Iran is primarily concerned with reinforcing spirituality, worship, asceticism, piety, and guarding Islamic and revolutionary values.

He added: The Islamic Government of Iran is a gift from God. The Islam that the Islamic Republic promotes is a complete and clear system for managing life, and human life includes prayer, jihad, family and everything from personal affairs to the great world issues.

The speaker discussed the U.S. economic embargo of Iran. He said: The nation of Iran relies on God. It stands on its own feet and is able to solve its problems and manage its own affairs as a living nation. It is regrettable and worrisome that instead of taking a logical approach and advising Mr. Clinton, who is himself along with his party bogged down in political and election problems, the representatives in the U.S. Congress are encouraging him.

Ahmad Nosrati-Rad, Deputy From Rasht

The next speaker was Nosrati-Rad, deputy from Rasht. During his speech he discussed the fact that the U.S. economic embargo against Iran today is nothing new. He said: Iran's international position is better now than at any other time, but it is incumbent upon us to make use of this opportunity and to base our external policies as much as possible on peacefulness and reliability. It is especially important that we resolve and arrange our financial affairs, especially with Moscow, in such a way that these relationships in the future will be based on confidence and making use of the required capabilities.

The speaker thanked the foreign minister and Iran's ambassadors for their praiseworthy activities for the sake of Iran's rights. He discussed the government's great work in industry, commerce, and agriculture. He said: I call upon the minister of culture and higher education, in view of previous discussions, to change the management of Gilan University as soon as possible.

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At the end of his speech the speaker thanked the minister of communications, asked the minister of oil to continue with preparations for the refinery, and asked the minister of roads and transportation to attend as quickly as possible to increasing the flights from Rasht Airport.

Fazel Amir-Jahani, Deputy From Abhar

The final pre-agenda speaker was Amir-Jahani, deputy from Abhar. During his speech he offered condolences on the arrival of the days of Moharram and the sixth anniversary of the death of his holiness the imam (peace be upon him). He said: The enemies of Islam must know and expect that there will be an explosion of the forces concentrated in the midst of the partisans of Hoseyn, to overcome the excessive oppression of the people of the world, and at the appropriate time they will expose the essence of the criminals.

He then discussed the losses suffered by the farmers in his region due to the recent rainfall, and he called upon the minister of the interior to give the required orders as soon as possible to compensate for the losses.

He said the total losses suffered by the farmers were 10.83 billion rials [R]. He called upon the minister of energy to lift the prohibition on the use of agricultural water in his electoral district, and he asked the minister of energy [as published] about the reasons for closing a number of industrial units in the region.

Legislation

Engineer Khamushi's Question to Minister of the Interior

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the question from Mr. Khamushi, deputy from Tehran, to the minister of the interior, with regard to the lack of decisive enforcement of the Anti-Smuggling Law.

In his question, the deputy from Tehran said: On 11/09/1373 [29 February 1995], a letter signed by 186 Majles deputies was sent to the respected minister of the interior with regard to stopping excessive price increases and other matters. Two weeks after the letter was sent the question to the minister of the interior was presented in the Majles asking why the Anti-Smuggling Law is not being enforced. He came to the commission and made statements which were not satisfactory to the questioner. After that the toiling government took steps and the police cadres carried them out, but the question is, why isn't this law being decisively enforced?

Minister of the Interior's Answer

In answering the question, Interior Minister Mr. Besharati said: Before the anti-smuggling campaign fights the roots and factors, it will fight the effects. The Ministry of the Interior has had significant success with the program it has carried out.

He then said: Ninety percent of the smuggling is done from Bandar 'Abbas. Just this last month of Farvardin [21 March - 20 April 1995] we confiscated about R23 billion in smuggled goods, while in the same month of Farvardin last year we confiscated about R9 billion. Although the Council of Ministers has given the responsibilities for smuggled goods to the Ministry of the Interior and for smuggled foreign exchange to the Ministry of Intelligence, we did not assume that foreign exchange has nothing to do with us. In 1373 [21 March 1994 -20 March 1995] we confiscated more than $2 million in foreign exchange. Just in the first two and a half months of the current year [21 March - 5 June 1995], we confiscated about $1.2 million. We are therefore making no excuses and are carrying out our responsibilities with full decisiveness.

In discussing his new question, Mr. Khamushi said: In the year 1373 the total foreign exchange consumption by the banking system for imported goods was no more than about $8.4 billion, while imports of smuggled goods are estimated to have been between $4 and $7 billion.

He then added: Contrary to what the minister of the interior says, no more than three weeks after the government took its measures, foreign exchange went back to its former situation with great fanfare, yet the reason the price of foreign exchange is not high now is because there are no commercial applicants for it. The price of foreign exchange is not high, but the reason is not because a fight has begun on Estanbul Street against a few brokers. Everyone knows that the price of foreign exchange has increased at times when there were secret transactions and smuggled imports.

He added: It is not important to give statistics. Visit a few warehouses and see for yourself how much unauthorized merchandise is on the market. It is a shame upon the nation that we run such a market in the country. Why should the value of our rial be low? Our rial has value, and foreign exchange must come down.

He proposed to the minister of the interior: You must monitor the roads and streets, inspect all the trucks belonging to the government and private sectors, and see the result. This bad situation goes back to the government sectors. The law permits the Ministry of the Interior to inspect commercial warehouses in the country. Why aren't these warehouses checked to examine their import documents?

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In conclusion he said: If we execute a few economic terrorists, the prayers of the deprived and the orphans will be with us.

Continuing with his answer to the new question, Mr. Besharati said: In our anti-smuggling campaign in 1373, we stopped 8,490 of the 12,000 vessels in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman who were transporting smuggled goods here and there. We also confiscated 3,600 vehicles carrying smuggled goods.

He added: In 1373 we confiscated about R310 billion in smuggled goods and we used all our power and ability in this regard. We say decisively that there are now no smugglers in the Persian Gulf or the Gulf of Oman.

It is worth mentioning that the minister's answer was not deemed satisfactory and the question was referred to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission for further consideration.

Motion on Utilization of Marine Resources

The next item on the agenda was continued consideration of the Motion to Preserve and Use Marine Resources, articles of which were approved.

According to Article 9: The fishing ports will be managed by the Fisheries Organization supervisory and oversight apparatus.

According to Article 10: To support coastal fishermen, industrial fishing vessels are prohibited within the coastal waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to Article 12: The transport and use of unauthorized fishing implements and equipment and also materials such as explosives, poisons, or electrical devices that can weaken, sicken, or kill marine life are prohibited.

Majles Notes

Consolidation of Ministry of Cooperatives, Ministry of Commerce

Many Majles deputies signed a motion calling for the consolidation of the Ministry of Cooperatives and the Ministry of Commerce. This motion will be presented to the Majles this Wednesday [14 June].

14 Jun 95

95LA0295A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Jun 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday with Mr. Ruhani, the deputy speaker of the Majles, presiding. We call your attention to the details of the discussions.

Statements of the Majles Deputy Speaker

In a speech in yesterday's session, Dr. Hasan Ruhani explained the U.S. conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The deputy speaker of the Majles, pointing out that the U.S. accusations concerning Iranian nuclear issues are regarded as futile and irrational accusations and referring to the peace and compromise process, said: All the U.S. claims regarding Iran's destruction of the peace process, military training, and financial aid to the Islamic groups in Palestine are baseless and not factual, and the Americans could not prove these claims to their allies.

He added: The United States and Israel must find the roots of their defeat and know that the failure of the compromise peace plan is because it is unjust and unrealistic. A plan that is based on the domination of the occupying regime in the region will not succeed.

In continuation, Dr. Ruhani considered the recent decision of the United States in its unilateral embargo on Iran as stemming from its own internal affairs and said: Clinton decided to impose an embargo on Iran to preclude the Republicans raising this issue in the Senate, and in order not to fall behind, Clinton raised this issue in the government.

He pointed out: Prior to announcing the embargo, the Americans had consulted their allies (the seven industrial groups, the European Union, and other countries), who all opposed this decision, and the United States engaged in this action unilaterally.

In another part of his speech, the Majles deputy speaker referred to the U.S. conflict with its allies over the strategic interests in the Persian Gulf and said: Not only are the United States and its allies not united with regard to strategic interests in the Persian Gulf, but they are always in conflict over the issues. The ultimate goal of the United States is for Iran to surrender.

The strong and independent presence of Iran on the northern shore will result in a balance in international equations.

Stating that the United States has a usurping presence in the region and must leave the region as soon as possible, he said: The United States and its allies are present in the region because the U.S. oil will be exhausted in 10 years, Canada's in nine years, England's in six years, all the European countries' in 13 years, and Russia's in 19 years. On this side, the five countries of the Persian Gulf region will be the supermen of world oil. Saudi Arabia with 261 billion barrels of oil reserves; Iran with 93 billion barrels of oil, along with more than

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200 billion barrels of natural gas; Iraq with 100 billion barrels; Kuwait with 96 billion barrels; and the United Arab Emirates with 98 billion barrels, which totals more than 648.7 [as published] billion barrels of oil reserves. Along with other energy sources, they will have more than 800 billion barrels of oil reserves [as published]. Their sensitivity is due to this factor.

In conclusion, he addressed the leaders of the meeting of the Group of Seven and said: Do not allow the United States to harm the credibility of the meeting and make it questionable.

Mohammad Hasan Jamshidi, Deputy From Behshahr

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Jamshidi from Behshahr, who referred to the U.S. failure and said: The U.S. Government must know that today it has been ruined in Iran. Had it not been for the imam, the fate of this country would not have been clear. Not only will the U.S. economic embargo and its military presence in the region fail to have the slightest effect on the determination of our nation, but it is also considered a foolish act.

He added: If we are considered a power in the world, it is by the blessing of religious guardianship. The ugly face of the United States in these conditions has been clearly exposed by the enlightening guidance of the grand leader of the revolution to all nations.

He praised the minister of energy with regard to his special attention in approving the Golord Dam in the Second Plan and allocating a budget line to study and implement it, regarding it a response to the farmers and rice planters.

In continuation, referring to the problems of his constituency and thanking the minister of culture and higher education for the Science and Industry University in Behshahr and the admission of 100 students, he asked for a visit by the minister to that city.

Ahmad Salek, Deputy From Esfahan

The next speaker was Salek from Esfahan who, pointing out that the salvation of this and the next world is on the course of worshipping God, said: The secret of success depends on the growth of spirituality, morality, sincerity, alertness, and obedience to pure Mohammadan Islam; that is, obedience to the Imam, the religious guardian, and the leader.

He referred to the lofty position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world and emphasized: Islamic Iran, as a powerful and dignified government that carries with it a rich culture in the world, naturally is the target of attack and jealousy by its enemies, especially the great Satan.

The deputy from Esfahan added: It one day imposes an eight-year war against the Islamic Republic of Iran; for some time imposes political, economic, and military embargo and creates problems for the great revolution; and today, organizes an obscene cultural invasion and economic embargo, sometimes through Westernized intellectuals and cultural liberals who operate under this cover and in fact pursue the motto of the separation of religion from politics.

He continued: The grand leader said that some of those who are enchanted by or puppets of Western culture spread their ideas in the name of tolerance and say that Islam means tolerance. This is the interpretation of those who, in fact, do not want to implement any of the Islamic injunctions.

He emphasized: Our supposed crime is opposing the wishes of the global dominators. Our supposed crime is opposing the treacherous plan of compromise between the Arabs of Israel; supporting the people of Palestine and Bosnia; defending Islam and Islamic injunctions, including the implementation of the imam's ruling regarding the heathen Salman Rushdie; and opposing the rule of terrorism.

Asking why the people of the United States have kept silence vis-a-vis the group of U.S. congressmen who support international terrorism, the speaker said: One of the factors of our economic problems is lack of coordination among the decisionmaking organizations concerning the economic issues of the country. This shortcoming must be resolved with initiative and decisive action.

Thanking the government and the president for stabilizing the foreign currency rate, the deputy from Esfahan added: It is hoped that proper grounds are prepared for the implementation of the goals of the Second Plan.

He regarded success in implementing this plan as dependent on the serious fight against smuggled goods and emphasized: Even in dealing with government organizations, revolutionary institutions, and private boat docks, and if the Ministry of Interior speaks of a budget shortage, the law has up to 50 percent discovery fees. [sentence as published]

In connection with decisive and powerful support for the Islamic Republic regime, the speaker said: Rest assured that the future depends on us. To quote one of our staunch U.S. enemies in a book, by the year 2000, the power in the world will be the power of Islam, with the Islamic Republic as its center.

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In conclusion, Salek made a reminder to the president about the shortage of water in his constituent area.

Seyyed Mas'ud Hoseyni, Deputy From Boyer Ahmad

Hoseyni, the deputy from Boyer Ahmad, as the last pre-agenda speaker, referred to last year's visit of the grand leader to that province and said: The 15 Khordad 1342 [5 June 1963] uprising is considered a pivotal point in the history of the proud people of Iran and has been and is the start of all authentic Islamic developments in the structure of Islamic movements and the government and the awakening of nations. The appearance of the Islamic revolution and the rule of the divine regime, with all its blessings after the years of pain and suffering of the oppressed people of Iran, the visit of the grand leader, the guardian of Muslims and the revered source of emulation for the Islamic world, to the province of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad has become the start of a new movement in this bravery-nurturing domain.

The speaker added: In this province, with the special attention of the leader, the foundations for eliminating deprivation and encouraging wise development and progress were established.

He thanked Hojjat ol-Eslam Ghayuri, the representative of the grand leader in the Red Crescent, for his visit to the province and also other members of the Office of the Grand Leader and said: Oh Leader, even though we will never be able to properly express our thanks for your honor's attention, in thanksgiving for and in honor of that historical and blessed visit, in the presence of your reverence's envoy, the loyal and appreciative people from throughout the province honored the night of the morning of which, seeing the dawn of the revolution, became the start of the construction of that province with the pleasant cries of "God is great" and repeated the memory of 22 Bahman [11 February] and the unforgettable days of that visit.

In conclusion, he asked for the building of a cement factory in his province.

Ratifications

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles was the continuation of the examination of the report on the second round of discussions on the proposal for the use of the reserves of the Caspian Sea, some of the articles of which were ratified.

According to Article 17: Any activity by actual and legal persons regarding the breeding and raising of marine life which has the permission of the Iranian Fishery Company is exempt.

According to Article 18: If the creation of farms and facilities for the breeding and raising of marine life causes damage to the marine life resources, the issuance of a license for production and raising will be prohibited.

The second item on the Majles agenda was the proposal to amend Article 44 of the accounting law, which was discussed as urgent and was not ratified.

On the Sidelines of the Majles

Election of Members of the Reconstruction Headquarters Inquiry and Investigation Committee

Following the ratification of the inquiry and investigation proposal concerning the Reconstruction Headquarters of the War-Stricken Regions, members of this committee were selected yesterday. Mr. Habibollah Habibi was elected as chairman; Mahmud Saber-Hamishegian as deputy chairman; and Mohsen Kuhkan, Kamal Daneshyar, Nurmohammad Robusheh, and Seyyed Mas'ud Hoseynian as members of this committee.

Soon after the decree is issued by the speaker of the Majles, this committee will start its investigation regarding the examination of Notes 30 and 31 of the budget law, which concern the Reconstruction Headquarters and oversight by deputies.

More Attention to the Question of Deputies

Some of the officials of the executive organizations fail to respond to the reminders of the deputies. Yesterday, Mr. Rasulinezhad, deputy from Damavand and Firuzkuh, referring to his reminders to the Ministry of Roads and Transport and the passage of more than three months without any response, asked for an investigation into this matter, and the deputy speaker of the Majles promised to investigate the matter.

18 Jun 95

95LA0296A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Jun 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday. In this session, the speaker of the Majles mentioned the great maneuver of 'Ashura as a renewal of the memory of the epic of the sacred defense and the martyrs of the imposed war and considered the presence of the commander in chief of the forces, the religious guardian, an increase in the spiritual dimension and grandeur of the maneuver. Then the Majles went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.**

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Mehdi Ezheh'i, Deputy From Esfahan

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session yesterday was Ezheh'i from Esfahan, who honored the memory of the martyrs of the Mo'talefeh Society, congratulated the Basijs and the Guard Corps for the 'Ashura maneuver, and added: As was anticipated, the great Satan, the United States, did not achieve its sinister objectives in the conference of the leaders of the seven industrial nations of the world.

Referring to the presence of the distinguished university professors who build the youth in the country for the not too distant future, Ezheh'i said: Unfortunately, a small number of pseudo-professors have infiltrated some corners of these great centers and are destroying the religious beliefs and the revolutionary culture of the young people. For example, in the College of Divinity, a professor most shamelessly questions all the religious values and ridicules the issues of prophethood, the imamate, religious guardianship, and everything.

In this connection, the speaker explained: (This pseudo-professor) defends Salman Rushdie and has created such an atmosphere of dictatorship in the classroom and stifled the voices of the students with the sharp blade of grades that, unfortunately, despite the efforts of the Islamic associations, no success has been gained. We ask the dean of the College of Divinity to stop the spread of such poison.

Referring to the successes of the Voice and Vision and the satisfaction of the grand leader with this organization, he said: We expect this great university to create free discussions with elements who claim to have ideas and theories, but the director of this great organization has invited such individuals, who have not accepted the invitation because they are afraid their true nature will be revealed. Our nation must know the ideas and persons who pretend that they are oppressed and say that they are cut off from everywhere. Even though they are invited for discussions, they are always seeking an audience without much knowledge in order to be able to play with their minds.

Opposing the proposal on combining the Ministry of Cooperatives and the Ministry of Commerce, with regard to making a decision about the Asman airplane crash, he asked for more rapid investigation and continued: It has been rumored that the director of the Nabovat Economic Foundation has been released. If that is so, it is unfortunate, especially since this individual has used the sacred name of prophethood on his organization, through which he has committed all sorts of offenses.

In connection with his constituency, the deputy from Esfahan asked that the water budget for this province not be reduced and complained that for some baseless reason, the agricultural budget of Esfahan has been reduced.

'Abbas 'Ali 'Amid-Zanjani, Deputy From Tehran

The next speaker was 'Amid-Zanjani the deputy from Tehran, who offered his congratulations on the success of the Guard Corps in the 'Ashura maneuver and expressed hope that with order and discipline in carrying out their important duties as specified by the Constitution, they will guard the Islamic revolution.

He regarded the main obligation of the university in the country to be education and said: All organizations, including the executive and the legislative, must help the universities on this course. The universities' engagement in issues alongside the mission of education and research is tolerable, but it would be improper and unforgivable for these secondary activities to cause the universities to deviate from their main mission. He added: This may be regarded as treason by some. The universities must be allowed to heed their main mission and also involve themselves in secondary issues to the extent of their abilities.

Then, referring to the economic problems of the country, the deputy from Tehran said: They say that because the problems are economic, they require economic solutions. This is an acceptable and undeniable fact that no one can dispute. Countries such as Japan, which appear advanced on the surface, benefit from their own values, cultural principles, and religious beliefs, and yet we see that they select certain issues as the foundation of their economy and have been able to overcome their problems.

The speaker continued: Why should we who have Islam not use our cultural principles and Islamic values to eliminate the problems? When we talk about financial discipline, this notion stems from Islamic principles and Islamic culture, which can solve many of our problems. I do not say that imperfections and corruption exist in the administrative system of the country, and if I did say so, I must apologize, but there are shortcomings and imperfections.

Stating that under the present conditions we badly need political discipline, 'Amid-Zanjani pointed out that in the critical moment of fighting cultural invasion, we must not accept Western culture in political rivalries.

Mohsen Nariman, Deputy From Babol

Another pre-agenda speaker was Nariman from Babol, who referred to the defensive display of the Islamic

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forces in the 'Ashura maneuver and said: This maneuver was so powerful and splendid that the deadly dust of despair settled on the sinister face of imperialism.

He asked the government to act firmly regarding the recent decisions concerning the foreign currency rate.

He added: If the implementation of the plan harms exports somewhat, we should prepare the grounds for ultimate success with thought and contemplation, strengthening the strong points, analyzing the weak points, and offering proposals and suggestions.

He mentioned the payment of foreign currency loans to producers as the only solution to eliminating the decrease in exports and said: To support the educators in the country and prevent their vulnerability with regard to high prices and inflation, the government must determine a specific line in the annual budget bills and specific funds.

He made a reminder to the minister of industries regarding the delay of the Industrial Standards and Research Institute in approving the standards for natural gas burners for cars.

Seyyed Mohammad Reza Mavalizadeh, Deputy From Ahvaz

The last speaker [as published] was Mavalizadeh from Ahvaz, who said in connection with the great 'Ashura maneuver: The noteworthy point in this display was the presence of the commander in chief of the forces and the leader of the revolution, which shows the spirit of bravery of the high position of guardianship more than ever before.

Regarding the decree of the late Imam concerning the heathen Salman Rushdie, which has been clearly endorsed by the grand leader, he said: The Muslim people of Iran will under no circumstances deviate from this sacred decree that is obligatory and prohibited from being disregarded.

In conclusion, Mavalizadeh added: The Accounting Office in the past several months has begun appropriate measures to impose serious supervision over the financial operations of organizations. Hence, I find it necessary to thank the officials of this sensitive organization. Hopefully, this sacred task that will play an important role in achieving economic discipline will continue with decisiveness.

'Abbas Sheybani, Deputy From Tehran

The next speaker was Sheybani from Tehran, who pointed out that in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] about 60 billion pounds were spent on patients sent abroad and said: Ask the Central Bank, not even $3 million is spent on patients sent abroad, and those seen by the Board of Trustees are not sent at all, with the exception of those individuals who go outside the regulations and upon recommendations.

In connection with the problem of the Board of Trustees regarding the government-proposed bill, in which unfortunately one line is missing, the deputy from Tehran said: That missing line is that the requirements for the import of materials and equipment, the registration of orders, payments, and collections shall be only subject to the bylaws approved by the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, and the above imports are exempt from any sort of taxes, fees, customs, registration fees, commercial taxes, or discrepancies in the amount of payment.

He emphasized: I do not know what this exemption is that is written here. Customs itself has become the interpreter of the law, sitting in place of the Majles, and says that since they have not read one line, then the view of the Majles was that you are not exempt. [as published]

In conclusion, Sheybani said: Please eliminate this problem that we have. Let us prevent the sending of patients abroad.

Explaining the pre-agenda speech of Dr. Sheybani, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said concerning the government-proposed bill regarding the Board of Trustees:

The rights in question are the rights of the gentlemen, and according to Mr. Dari-Najafabadi, the chairman of the Planning and Budget Committee, that item has been left out, and we will notify the government that those exemptions will remain in effect.

Ratifications

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was continuing to exam the details of the proposal to use the resources of the Caspian Sea, of which Paragraphs A and B of Article 22 were ratified by the deputies.

According to Article 22: Any foreign fishing vessel that engages in fighting in the waters cited in Article 2 of this law without obtaining the necessary license anticipated in this law shall be subject to fines ranging from 2 million rials [R] to R100 million in cash and confiscation of its fishing products. In addition to this punishment, the court may confiscate the fishing vessel and the fishing and other tools on the vessel, as well.

The continuation of the examination of other articles of the proposal was postponed until the next session.

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The next item on the agenda was the proposal regarding the hiring of hourly paid teachers of the Ministry of Education, which was discussed as very urgent.

Explaining this proposal, Mohsen Kuhkan said: We have 50,000 hourly teachers throughout the country. When our classes had no teachers, we needed them, and we need them now. When school ends in Khordad [22 May-21 June], these forces spend the three months of summer without a salary and are called back to work in Mehr [23 September-22 October]. Is it proper for us to treat these forces this way? This proposal will bring no financial burden. The very urgent priority rating was put to a vote and ratified.

Also, at the end of the open session of the Majles yesterday, the length of some Majles holidays was put to a vote; as a result, the Majles will be closed from 1-30 Mordad [23 July-21 August].

On the Sidelines of the Majles

Request for Inquiry and Investigation of the Central Bank

Engineer Yusefpur made a reminder concerning the request for inquiry and investigation of the Central Bank not being put on the agenda. The speaker of the Majles said: This request was set for the sessions this week but was overlooked. This proposal will be on the agenda of the Majles for next week.

Yesterday, Mr. Qashqavi made a reminder on the basis of Article 148 of the bylaws and asked that the minister of interior come to the Majles to respond with the reason for failing to implement the law on amending the boundaries of the city of Tehran.

He told our correspondent: About 27 months ago, the law on amending the boundaries of the city of Tehran was ratified, but the minister of interior continues to refuse to implement this law.

The last time that he was asked, according to the minutes of the session that I myself signed on 04/02/1374 [24 April 1995], the minister of interior, along with the governor general of Tehran and the developmental and parliamentary deputy ministers of interior, promised to implement it. He does not want to implement the law.

In conclusion, he said: In my opinion, the failure to implement the law is due to the disagreement of the Tehran mayor.

20 Jun 95

95LA0303A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Jun 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri. We direct the attention of our respected readers to the details of the proceedings.**

Hoseyn Amini, Deputy From Qa'enat

The first pre-agenda speaker was Amini, deputy from Qa'enat. In his speech he discussed the grandeur of the great Ashura maneuvers and congratulated all the jihad crusaders throughout the country on the arrival of Jihad Week. He said: Today the nations of the world have accepted that Islamic Iran is a strong and stable country which has put problems behind it through reliance on the great power of the public and which has high productive capability.

He noted that the nation of Iran is not affected either by military threats or by economic embargo. With regard to the government's firm decision about the smuggling of goods and foreign exchange, he said: The serious campaign against the smuggling of goods and foreign exchange has had good effects on all sectors of the economy and has made the public happy. The people are worried that this constructive decision may weaken after a time.

He added: By procuring the foreign exchange needed by the producing units, we must not allow production to decline, for a reduction in production would automatically be followed by increased prices and the black market. In order to have a permanent export market in the future, we must give sufficient attention to the quality of export goods.

Amini criticized the low-quality exports in the Province of Khorasan. With regard to the problems and difficulties in his electoral district, he thanked the minister of industries for putting the cement factory into operation. He asked for help from the minister of financial affairs in making the municipality's banks independent, from the Plan and Budget Organization in specifying the foundation area for building construction, from the chief of the Physical Training Organization in the procurement of athletic space, from the minister of agriculture with regard to establishing a barberry and saffron research center, and from the minister of commerce in increasing the ration for steel implements.

Jalal Rasuli, Deputy From Miandoab

The next speaker was Rasuli, deputy from Miandoab. During his speech he said: The Government of the Is-

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lamic Republic of Iran is the only righteous government guiding humanity that has taken a stand against falsehood and world imperialism, destroyed the image of hypocrisy, and grabbed the Great Satan by the throat.

He continued: What is now creating problems in society for economic development and the implementation of social justice and public welfare is the profiteering role of a some of the newly rich who commit abuses at every opportunity and who have amassed significant amounts of currency in circulation through legitimate and illegitimate means.

The speaker emphasized: The currency in circulation in society is not in the hands of all the people. It belongs to a small percentage of society who do not serve God. They have obtained huge amounts of money mostly through illegitimate means. They have created crisis wherever they have turned and have become wealthier with each crisis.

He continued: If the officials and executive experts will think of a solution and at least guide this currency in circulation into productive work and self-sufficient industries, and if they will make it harder to engage in profiteering and the pursuit of excess and enormous windfall profits, many of society's economic problems will be solved.

The deputy from Miandoab discussed the useful attainments by the government's recent decision on foreign exchange. He said: These decisions have caused exports to stagnate and have made problems for domestic producers. For example, such handicraft industries products like carpets have fallen off, and carpet weavers are in serious need of support.

Rasuli praised the president of the republic for building development and anti-deprivation projects in his electoral district such as laying gas pipelines, the connective bridge on the Zarinehrud River, and procuring purified water for Miandoab from the Zarinehrud. He added: In conclusion, I will simply state my regret at the heedlessness and political maneuvering of the Ministry of Education and Training in response to the memos and reformist guidance given it by Majles deputies, which we gave in the performance of our most important supervisory duties.

Nosrat Samadzadeh, Deputy From Urmia

The next speaker was Samadzadeh, deputy from Urmia. During his speech he discussed the great Ashura maneuvers and the turnout by millions of people from Azerbaijan to welcome the president of the republic. He said: To stabilize prices and capital, it is important to pay attention to production, and inflation must be anchored for investment in production.

He said that because of the war, the government met the foreign exchange costs of the war through oil revenues, and it met the rial expenses by printing currency notes. He continued: This same situation caused the volume of currency in circulation in the year 1367 [21 March 1988 - 20 March 1989] to reach 15,680 billion rials [R]. After the year 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990] however, the Central Bank forgot its responsibilities instead of stabilizing the value of the rial and making its value grow.

He noted that the limitations on imports and exports were changed, and the implementation of the unrestricted policy on commerce caused increased borrowing from the banking system. He said: The volume of currency in circulation increased over five years to R56,000 billion. Unsound individuals, taking advantage of the opportunity, obtained huge amounts of capital and spent it on speculations in the stock market, securities, gold, and foreign exchange. They brought inflation to a point where it worried the low-income classes.

Samadzadeh discussed the fact that the government's recent foreign exchange policy was quite useful and effective in stabilizing prices. He emphasized: People who have amassed windfall profits are not people who have used their wealth for this nation's development and prosperity. They are bad examples who impose buying and consuming at any price. Therefore, to anchor inflation, enormous taxes must be imposed on the incomes of these people to balance the scales with tax reparations.

In the same regard he said: The Government Penalties Law and relying on manpower are not enough by themselves to control the lack of financial discipline in the market. The financial discipline must be followed by government organizations, a banking network, and economic managers pursuing the goals of economizing and making the best use of government resources in view of the exalted leader's commands.

Samadzadeh emphasized the fact that production is still dependent on oil. He said: Attention must be given to the agricultural sector. Along with that, the farmers and livestock keepers must themselves be protected as the trustees in the focus for the nation's economic independence.

At the end of his speech, the speaker thanked the minister of the interior for replacing the mayor of Urmia. He said: I ask that delegations be sent to investigate the mayor's office of Urmia concerning the abuses by some municipal officials.

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Nuroddin No'i-Aqdam, Deputy From Ardebil

The final pre-agenda speaker was No'i-Aqdam, deputy from Ardebil. He discussed the request by 52,000 of the nation's teachers to have their employment situation clarified. He said: Teachers working under the Ministry of Education and Training for fees, who are usually from the working classes of society, have spent most of their time in the nation's most deprived rural areas during this long period, with the smallest monthly salaries, usually paid late. He discussed the approval of the very urgent Motion to Hire Teaching Fee Teachers, which has brought special hope to their agitated hearts, and he asked the Majles deputies to give final approval to this motion.

He added: If this motion is used by the Majles today in view of the beginning of the coming academic year, there will only be two months left for the Ministry of Education and Training to issue the hiring orders. It appears that the likely delay in the study of this motion will in effect create problems.

The speaker continued: Note 11 of the 1374 [21 March 1995 - 20 March 1996] Budget Law provides that by the end of Ordibehesht [21 May], the share of interest-free marriage loans for each of the nation's provinces, according to population percentage and distributed among each of the banks, will be announced to the provinces. Now, as we are at the end of Khordad [21 June], unfortunately there is no word of this, and this must be explained.

He thanked the minister of roads and transportation for installing navigational equipment at Ardebil Airport and asked that construction of this airport's terminal building be expedited.

Legislation

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the very urgent Motion to Hire Teaching Fee Teachers working for the Ministry of Education and Training .

The deputies opposing and favoring the motion expressed their views.

Bahrami, deputy from Asadabad, spoke in opposition to the motion. He said: Why are the authors of the motion afraid? This motion should have expert work done and it should be considered in the commission.

No'i-Aqdam spoke in support of the motion. He said: This motion has been before the commissions for several years, but there has been no result. Therefore, to overcome the problems of these dear ones, we were forced to present the motion with very urgent status. Do you realize that if these people working for teaching fees are put aside, education and training in the country will be paralyzed?

Speaking in opposition, Movahedi-Saveji said: If the government has the budget for this motion, with the authorization the Majles has given it to hire one teacher for every 20 students, what is the need for this motion?

Habibian, deputy from Hamadan, spoke in support of the motion. He said: Manpower adjustment is mostly an issue in the economic sector, not in the nation's education and training system. Some day, the status of the teaching fee teachers must be clarified. If not today, when?

Rahbari-Amlashi, speaking in opposition to the proposal, said: It is not justifiable to say that the motion carries no financial burden. As soon as they are accepted, it will create a commitment for the government.

Kamran, deputy from Esfahan, spoke in support of the proposal. He said: We want to solve the nation's education problem. It is merely nice words to say we have no problem. You go and look at the nation's various schools and see what their situation is like.

After remarks by supporters and opponents, a number of deputies asked that the urgency status be reduced one level.

In discussing this request, 'Ali Yusefpur said: There is no doubt that the status of these dear ones must be clarified, but it is not right simply to hire 52,000 teaching fee teachers and with a very urgent motion. This will create an obligation for the government. This problem cannot be solved quickly.

After comments by deputies supporting and opposing, the proposal to reduce the urgency rating by one level was put to a vote and approved. Consequently the very urgent status of the Motion to Hire Teaching Fee Teachers was changed to urgent, and the motion was referred to the specialist commission for further study.

The next item on the agenda was continued consideration of the details of the Motion on Utilizing Reserves in the Sea of Mazandaran, the remainder of whose articles were approved by the deputies.

Continuation of Article 22

J: The Iran Fisheries Corporation may report fishermen who commit one or all of the crimes below to the court within a maximum of three days. The court may fine the perpetrators R1 million to R10 million depending on the number and degree of the offenses, and it may confiscate the catch and the fishing gear.

1. fishing in prohibited areas or seasons;

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2. fishing for species whose fishing has been prohibited;
3. fishing for species for which the necessary authorization has not been obtained;
4. operating industrial fishing vessels in coastal fishing areas.

D: Fishing, operating, marketing, selling, transporting, or storing imports and catches of caviar fishes and caviar without the authorization of the Iran Fisheries Organization is prohibited. The perpetrator or perpetrators will be fined up to three times the value of the catch (according to the type and quantity of the catch) and imprisoned up to three months.

If the crimes in this paragraph are repeated, the court may sentence the perpetrator or perpetrators to 91 days to six months in penal prison, in addition to the fine.

The Motion to Append a Note to the Foreign Freight Vehicles Traffic Regulations Law enacted 4/12/1373 [3 July 1994] was presented as an urgent motion.

Engineer Shahriari said concerning this motion: Based on the agreements we have with other countries on freight vehicles, they must refrain from collecting fees of any kind on Iranian trucks. They drive in our country without fees being collected, but in some countries they collect fees, such as the 2,000 marks in Romania, $900 in Ukraine, $200 in Uzbekistan, and others.

He then said: Since they are unilaterally breaking the law on collecting fees, we must also permit the ministry to collect fees on the foreign trucks.

Since there was no opposition to the motion's urgent status, it was put to a vote and approved.

More than 170 Deputies Praise the Forces Performing the Great Ashura Maneuvers

In a letter to the exalted leader, commander in chief of the armed forces, 170 Majles deputies praised the forces performing the great Ashura Maneuvers. The letter states:

The Ashura operational exercises, involving 100,000 basiji forces in the 31st Revolutionary Guard Army, were conducted on a 400-square-kilometer site. They demonstrated the high combat capability and defense preparedness of our brave combatants.

Your excellency's hope-giving attendance, your inspiring and rousing speech at the opening ceremony, and your sensitive statement that we do not seek war but will not surrender, expressed well the policy and line of the sacred Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the military dimension.

This great maneuver disappointed our sworn enemies and brought joy to the friends of the Islamic revolution in the farthest corners of the world.

In conclusion the statement says: The Majles reaffirms its obedience to the exalted leader, commander in chief of the armed forces, and it considers itself obligated to praise and thank all the dear participating commanders, revolutionary guards and basijs, and all the supporting forces. It declares that it is always ready to guard the sanctity of Islam and the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult.

We ask Almighty God to grant your sacred being a long and glorious life.

21 Jun 95

95LA0304A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] [Boxed item] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles held and open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding. We call to your attention the details of the discussion.** [end boxed item]

Zabihollah Karimi, Deputy From Shushtar

The first pre-agenda speaker was Karimi from Shushtar, who announced that the plague of ethnocentrism is ignorance and said: The creation of special temporal and cultural burdens between ethnic groups will cause conflict and hostility, the policy that was used by the past regime to achieve its goals.

He added: Let us look at Lebanon and Palestine, where Imam Musa Sadr-Esfahani becomes the leader of Arabs. This is a delicate point in Islam.

Pointing out that Dr. Chamran was one of the pioneers to fight on God's path and crush the ignorant culture of ethnocentrism, Karimi said: (Martyr Chamran) says that ethnocentrism, especially among unaware Muslims, is the most savage and backward pseudo-culture of idol worshipping, and we are at war with the deceptive philosophy of Zionism that is the founder of idol worship.

He pointed out: The acceptance of Martyr Chamran as a leader by the young Arabs shows his success in breaking the obstacle of ethnocentrism, and it is the principle of Islam.

In conclusion, he honored the incident on 30 Khordad [20 June] in Mashhad.

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Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, Deputy From Saqqez and Baneh

The next speaker was Partovi from Saqqez and Baneh, who referred to the internal bylaws of the Majles and, presenting letters of interpellation of the minister of education to the board of directors at two different times, said: Even though the issue of interpellation is not pleasant to us and support for the presidential Cabinet is a revolutionary mission, in any case it is the right of the deputies.

He emphasized: But trust did not reach its destiny because on 07/02/1373 [27 April 1994], after the presentation of the first letter of interpellation, the announcement was made in the Majles that it could not be discussed because it is too general, and it would be returned to the deputies to clarify the instances, but it was not returned. Subsequently, another interpellation letter was written and presented three weeks ago, and from the very first day, they insisted that the signatures be withdrawn.

Stating that impartiality has not been preserved and the signatures were withdrawn unwillingly by several people as the result of invitations, pleading, and special considerations, Partovi explained: Here, the bylaws have not been implemented, and this action is contrary to the text of the oath.

Aman Narimani, Deputy From Eslamabad-e Gharb

The next speaker was Narimani from Eslamabad-e Gharb, who said: I regard the source of any shortcoming and slowness in reforms and elimination of problems in the attainment of the lofty goals of the regime to be due to the law remaining weak and not being practiced.

Emphasizing the importance of the role of Majles in the Islamic society, he said: If, instead of interfering in the executive affairs of the country and endless and fruitless correspondence, the Majles would engage in its two basic duties, that is, ratification of the legislated laws in an expert manner and precise supervision over the implementation of its ratifications on all levels, would a major portion of the problems not be eliminated?

In this connection, the speaker explained: It seems that we must contemplate our current tasks as the Legislative Branch of the country and not as single deputies, and the government and the Judicial Branch, too, must engage in examining themselves.

In continuation, stating that the eight years of sacred defense robbed our people of one of the best opportunities for construction, Narimani asked for the help and cooperation of the minister of interior in compensating for the damages of the flood of 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] and the minister of roads and transport regarding presidential promises concerning the Karbala Road and the timely transfer of its funds.

In conclusion, he asked for the implementation of social justice on all levels of the society.

'Abdolkarim Ahmadnezhad, Deputy From Sanandaj

Ahmadnezhad, as another pre-agenda speaker, offered his congratulations to all the combatants in the country on the occasion of Construction Jihad Week and, referring to the conspiracies of global imperialism against the Islamic revolution, said: Last week, the self-sacrificing and brave guards demonstrated certain operations before the grand leader and the commander in chief of the armed forces in which they distinctly revealed their speed, power, rapid movement, and operational planning. The implementation of this great maneuver, in addition to showing the combat readiness of the Islamic Republic against the conspiracies of the enemies, also had a message of peace and friendship.

Then, referring to the successes gained in the province of Kurdistan, he said: In education, prior to the revolution there were 1,746 schools with 3,981 classrooms, which in 1373 in this province reached 2,360 schools with 8,154 classrooms. With regard to electricity, prior to the revolution we had 32,562 customers, which increased to 200,000 customers in 1373. Prior to the revolution, only eight villages had electricity, and now more than 1,100 villages enjoy electricity.

Asking the government and the Majles to eliminate deprivation in the province of Kurdistan and allocate developmental funds, he mentioned the appointment of the new governor general in the province, a factor in the creation of unity and development in the province.

He then continued: Considering the amazing progress that has taken place in the past few years in the mining sector, from which the province of Kurdistan has also benefited, it is proper for me to thank the minister of mines and metals for bringing the goals of the First Five-Year Plan to fruition.

In conclusion, the speaker thanked some of the executive officials of the country for attending to the conditions in this province.

Seyyed Hoseyn Sharifi, Deputy From Arak

The last speaker was Sharifi from Arak, who said: Last week, the director of the Tehran Stock Market announced in one of the afternoon newspapers the sale to the private sector of shares of the Arak Petrochemical

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and Machine Manufacturing Factories on the Stock Market.

Emphasizing that the sale of Arak Petrochemical and Machine Manufacturing Factory shares on the Stock Market or in any other manner is contrary to the national interests as specified in Article 44 of the Constitution, he asked the officials, particularly the president, to contemplate this issue carefully.

He continued: Last year, this factory made 30 billion rials [R] in profits, and it is anticipated that this year's profit will exceed this amount.

Mentioning the large capacity industries that provide the opportunity for the transfer of technology and training of needed manpower in the country, the deputy from Arak said: Arak Machine Manufacturing, which is a connecting link between the national industries and the vast supply of existing technology in the world, must concentrate its efforts even more than in the past on the scientific and technological fruition of industry in the country in order to increase production, and it is the duty of the officials to pay more attention to parent industries.

Question Posed by Moradi to the Minister of Finance

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the question of the deputy from Torqabeh and Chenaran to the minister of economic affairs and finance.

Ahmad Moradi read his question as follows:

1. What is the amount and kind of exported food items from the Customs of Khorasan Province to Central Asian and other countries since the beginning of Farvardin 1373 [21 March 1994]?

2. On the basis of what permits were these exports completed?
3. Considering the existing conditions in the country and the unpleasant effects of the continuation of this trend on the increase in the price of foodstuff, what decisions have been made?

4. Since the beginning of Farvardin 1373, how many tourists have entered the country from Central Asia and what are the kinds and amounts of imports and exports by them?

Response of Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance

In response to these questions, Mr. Mohammad Khan said: The export statistics of Khorasan province to Central Asia reveal transactions of about 21.5 billion tumans and 14.3 billion tumans to other countries, while together, about 35 billion tumans worth of goods went through Mashhad Customs. The kinds of food exports include biscuits, sherbet, candy, conserves, macaroni, cheese puffs, fruit juices, etc.

In response to the question regarding the number of tourists who have entered the country, the minister of economic affairs and finance said: The total number of tourists in 1373 was 46,645 people, and in the first two months of this year, about 7,080 persons. In the past, those who export could convert their foreign currency and purchase goods with it, but the new regulations require that foreign currency be bought and sold through the banking system, and exporters must exchange their foreign currency in the bank and have the same amount of export goods. Now, the situation is such that the a number of travelers and amounts of goods have declined greatly.

Moradi's Repeated Explanation

Explaining his question again, Mr. Moradi referred to the lack of order regarding exports in his region and said: What causes the price of legumes and foodstuff to increase several fold in the country?

Since Farvardin last year [21 March-20 April 1994], on the average we have exported 60 truckloads of goods every day to Central Asian countries, which during this period is more than 550,000 tons of goods at a value of $15 million.

He added: If one-seventh of these goods is foodstuff, and of this amount 20 percent is foodstuff needed in the society, you can see what problems it causes in one city.

He added: Since the stabilization of the foreign currency rate caused the purchasing power of the dollar vis-a-vis the rial to drop and the tourists not to be interested very much in buying in our country, it is a positive and appropriate measure.

Response of the Minister Finance Again

Based on the same report, Mr. Mohammad Khan continued: One of the most important things in trade that we can do in the Central Asian countries, considering their independence, is to maintain a presence in these markets.

The minister of economic affairs and finance added: I think that what has been done has been on the basis of the laws and regulations of the country, and no violations have taken place.

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We are trying to help and encourage exports in the country in the future in the area of regulating the foreign currency rate in the market.

It is noteworthy that the response of the minster was determined to be satisfactory.

25 Jun 95

95LA0305A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles held and open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding, and the deputies from the cities of Khodabandeh, Mianeh, and Maragheh and 'Ajabshir spoke as pre-agenda speakers. The deputies of Mianeh and Maragheh and 'Ajabshir thanked the president for his revered visit to the hero-nurturing state of Eastern Azerbaijan. The Majles then went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.**

Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Musavi, Deputy From Khodabandeh

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Musavi the deputy from Khodabandeh, who offered his condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of his holiness Zeynol'abedin and the martyrs of 7 Tir [28 June] and added:

These people responded positively in practice at very sensitive junctures to the call of the great leader of the revolution and the grand leader, and with all their might stood in all the scenes against the conspiracies of global imperialism, headed by the criminal United States.

He then referred to the successful 'Ashura maneuver and, considering it an indication of the combat capability and power of the country, said: Global imperialism must know that the best government is a government in which the religious scholars and jurists are at the top, and also the most loved government is a government whose people are aware and involved in the affairs of the country, and that is Islamic Iran, which is the best government in the world.

Continuing his speech, the deputy from Khodabandeh referred to the problem of inflation and asked for a government policy to uproot it, and, regarding weakness of management in the country, he said: At the present, at the lower ranks of some countries, weakness in management is seen which is due to politics and factionalism and creates negative effects among the people.

The people are not treated well in the offices, and the problems of people's jobs in offices remain unresolved. In this case, too, the honorable government must make decisions.

In another part of his speech, the speaker referred to implemental problems in his constituency and requested an investigation.

Seyyed Hoseyn Hashemi, Deputy From Mianeh

The next speaker was Hashemi from Mianeh, who, on behalf of the Eastern Azerbaijan deputies, praised and thanked the president, the ministers, and other companions for their visit and said: Last week, Azerbaijan was full of joy because the president visited Eastern Azerbaijan province and, with his presence among the population that loves the revolution and Islam, interpreted the people's Islamic government for the world.

Describing the magnificent welcome by the people to the president, the speaker added: I consider it my duty to express my gratitude to the people of Eastern Azerbaijan, who are always present on the scene in all cities, districts, and villages, for their unprecedented welcome.

Referring to the promise of the minister of health in connection with equipping the Mianeh Emergency Station, the deputy from Mianeh asked him to issue to the necessary instructions.

In conclusion, appealing to the minister of culture and higher education in connection with issuing permits for the two colleges of agriculture and animal husbandry, he said: I thank the minister of roads and transport in connection with revitalizing the expressway route around the city of Mianeh, which has truly benefited the city of Mianeh.

Jamshid Qanbari, Deputy From Mianeh

The next speaker was Qanbari from Mianeh, who referred to the blessed visit of the president to Eastern Azerbaijan and the magnificent welcome by the people and said: I am most thankful to the brave, martyr-nurturing people of Mianeh, including the governor, the Friday imam, the clerics, the teachers, students, farmers, and all the honorable strata, who truly shone in welcoming the president.

Addressing the honorable president, he said: As you saw, the martyr-nurturing people of Mianeh sincerely appreciated and welcomed the fundamental plans and projects and supported you in this program with their hearts and souls.

In conclusion, he asked the minister of roads and transport to enter negotiations regarding changing the

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expressway route, which he later changed, and not to shut the gate of Azerbaijan to Azerbaijan [as published].

Seyyed Mostafa Seyyed Hashemi, Deputy From Maragheh and 'Ajabshir

The last pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed Hashemi from Maragheh and 'Ajabshir, who thanked the president for his visit to Maragheh, and said referring to the visit to the 'Alavian Dam, the carpet exhibition, the ground-breaking of the paper manufacturing factory with 20 million tumans in funds, and the 20,000-person athletic stadium of Maragheh, especially the president's attention to the airport and the building of the Maragheh-Urmia railroad and his instruction to implement these projects next year: All these are elements of the results and blessings of the president's visit to the city of Maragheh.

Addressing the people of 'Ajabshir, he said: Even though, due to the shortage of time, there was no opportunity for the president to visit with the people of that district in person, the rightful demands of that area, the most important of which is to raise the level of the District Office of 'Ajabshir and implement the Qal'eh Chay Dam, were presented to the president, and we shall pursue the implementation of the instructions.

In conclusion, the speaker asked for an investigation regarding why this great exhibition by the people was not reported widely.

Ratifications

Proposal To Change the Student Admission System for the Doctoral Levels

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the first round of discussions of the Joint Culture and Higher Education and Health Committee with regard to changing the student admission system for the doctoral profession programs. The general points of the proposal were not ratified and were rejected.

This proposal was rejected by the Joint Committee, and the reason for its rejection are as follows:

1. At the present, the medical fields are of fine and acceptable quality compared to various countries of the world, and this proposal may result in a decline in quality.

2. Change in the structure of any sort of system requires time and a financial burden and will naturally have problematic consequences.

3. Lengthening the period of medical education, if they wish, after graduation with a masters degree, they should accept students for this field. [as published]

4. Students spending time for certain credit units that are not necessary for the medical program.

5. Creation of expectations among the graduates of the basic science and related fields.

It is noteworthy that this proposal, which had been presented by 70 deputies, states: Admission to professional doctoral programs shall require a nationwide exhaustive examination and participation in entry examinations with regard to an acceptable degree at a level of at least a masters degree in one of the basic sciences or other related fields.

Proposal For Selection of Teachers (Returned From the Council of Guardians)

The second item on the agenda of the Majles was the proposal for selection of teachers (returned from the Council of Guardians), concerning which the committee amendments were ratified by the deputies.

Amendment to Article 3. The bases of selection in the country are:

1. the president;
2. the Supreme Selection Committee;
3. the Central Committees;
4. core selection committees.

Amendment to Article 4. In order to perform the duties stated in Article 5 of this law, and considering the articles and regulations stated in the imam's decree, the president shall form the Supreme Selection Committee with the following composition:

1. representative of the Judicial Branch selected by the head of the Judicial Branch

2. the general secretary of the Administrative and National Employment Affairs Organization (if a person is appointed to this position by the president)...

3. the minister or the highest authority of the executive organization, as the case may be

4. two deputies from the Administrative Affairs and Education Committees elected by the Majles as observers

Article 5. The duties of the president in carrying out selection in the country (and if ratified) to the Supreme Selection Committee... [sentence as published]

Article 12 is amended as follows:

B. For all members of the Central Committees, 25 years of age and married; for all members of the core selection

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committees, 23 years of age and married; and for other selection personnel, priority is given to married people.

Note 3. Article 13 was amended as follows:

Those who protest the opinions of the Central Committee and the core selection committees may, at a maximum of two months after the notification of the opinion, complain to the Administrative Justice Court, and the court must take steps to investigate.

Very Urgent Proposal To Establish Admission Capacities for Medical Students

The last item on the agenda was the proposal to establish admission capacities for medical students, which was discussed as very urgent.

Explaining the proposal, Dr. Fattahi said: The Ministry of Health and Treatment, at the time of ratification of the plan and also the budget, did not clarify the issue of reducing the student capacity for the Majles, as to what policy they wanted to pursue. In a plan that the gentlemen presented to the Majles, they said: We have an increase of 4 percent in the medical sector; 60,000 applicants participated in the medical field, and compared to the previous years, medical capacities reduced by 32 percent, dentistry by 26 percent, and pharmacology by 24 percent. In other words, the capacity decreased by 1,152 people compared to last year.

He said: Monday [26 June] of this week, the list of the names of those in the first phase is scheduled to be announced. Hence, this decrease in capacity will cause many tensions, and we are facing a decrease of 30 percent.

After the opposing and supporting statements, the very urgent classification of the proposal was put to a vote and was ratified.

27 Jun 95

95LA0309A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jun 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Dr. Rowhani, deputy speaker of the Majles. We direct the attention of our respected readers to the details of the proceedings.

Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, Deputy From Ahvaz

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, deputy from Ahvaz. During his speech he commemorated the martyrs of 7 Tir [28 June]. He said: In his decisive way of managing the Assembly of Experts, the greatest fruit of the Islamic revolution, the oppressed martyr Dr. Beheshti left us the Constitution as his legacy.

He was a martyr who was instructive in all of his actions and words. The final lesson he gave to all of us was the final moments of his life. The last words he uttered, in a loud and celestial voice, were these: We must not permit the imperialists to make pawns of us again and to play with the fate of our people. Let us try to get people elected who are committed to the orthodoxy and who do not play with the fate of the people.

The speech had not ended when there was a terrifying sound, and in about 5 seconds more than 72 people, whose only crime was to guard the sanctity of Islam, were buried under loads and loads of dirt.

Continuing his remarks, he sharply criticized the speech by the minister of mines and metals at a gathering of managers for that ministry, which was printed in one of the publications. He said: As you know, the minister of mines and metals, Mr. Mahluji, was interpolated. I have nothing to say about the questions that were asked of him or the answers he gave. In any case, for numerous reasons the Majles decided to give him a vote of confidence so that he could perform his lawful duties as the choice of the Majles in the government. However, instead of doing his work and remedying the shortcomings and deficiencies, he took up political activity and tried to discredit his questioners at public gatherings, accusing them of extremism, irrationality, cowardice, superficiality, and lack of focus. Notice that he said they (the interpolators) were extremists on the left and the right, and in comparing them to extremists, he mentioned people who do not focus on any subject, who take a superficial approach, who are not rational, and who have a predictable way of approaching things.

He discussed another factor, jealousy, and said: "When the president of the republic devotes 10 minutes of his Friday prayer sermon to your report (the managers), do you think everyone there, even the pious hezbollahs, would be happy?" How strange for Mr. Mahluji to say that the pious hezbollahs will not be pleased by the progress of work in the Islamic government, which in reality strengthens Islam. Mr. Mahluji, please give us your opinion about the Koran and the dictionary.

Seyyed Ahmad Musavi said: In continuing his speech, unfortunately he assaulted Article 90, which actually amounts to assaulting the Majles itself, and he gave comfort to those who are not happy with the revolution.

He said: In the Article 90 Commission, sensitivities are converted to a a huge file, and you know that one of these files exists for almost every manager in the

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nation's government sector. If you look at them all, 90 percent are pointless.

Mr. Minister, you know that a person must say what he has to say at the right time. If you try to prove at a gathering of ministry managers that for example 90 percent of the files in the Article 90 Commission are pointless or that the interpolators are irrational, what does that mean? You should have said these things when you were defending yourself in the Majles so the Majles could decide if the interpolators were really irrational or whether they presented the interpellation to defend the sanctity of Islam, contrary to what you said.

Elsewhere in his talk the deputy from Ahvaz discussed the minister of mines and metals. He said: "When the ranking deputy came down from the podium he told me, you found a gold mine. If you find another one, they will kill you." Mr. Mahluji, do they really kill people who perform services in our government? If someone finds a gold mine and does a service to the government, are they going to destroy him? What kind of talk is this?

I really don't know why a minister says things like this in public. He also told the ministry managers: "Don't be afraid, in the end they will put our file aside." If there is nothing to be afraid of and there should be no fear, then why do you incite the public against the Majles and the Article 90 Commission? I hope our dear and beloved president of the republic will issue the necessary reminders to the minister.

Gol Mohammad Elyasi, Deputy From Varzaqan

The next speaker was Elyasi, deputy from Varzaqan. He offered condolences on the 40 days of mourning for Hoseyn and the anniversary of the martyrs of 7 Tir. During his speech he offered thanks for the president of the republic's good and blessed trip to his electoral district and for the public's splendid welcome. He said: Varzaqan was born with the Islamic revolution and came alive with the president of the republic's arrival.

He also said: The people of a region that was visited twice in four years by the president of the republic should be hopeful, and they must continue with their activities with better and greater motivation.

At the end of his speech, the speaker thanked the people of his electoral district for giving a splendid welcome to the president of the republic, and he thanked the vice-regent's representative in the province, the Friday imam of Tabriz, and the officials in charge.

Fatemeh Homayun Moqadam, Deputy From Tabriz

The next speaker was Ms. Homayun Moqadam, deputy from Tabriz. She mentioned the welcome that the people of Azerbaijan and the citizens of Tabriz gave to the president of the republic. She said: The moment the beloved president of the republic pressed the calloused hands of the rural people and humbly reciprocated their passionate feelings with tears in his eyes, the teary eyes of the president of the republic and the rural people made a flood of tears that watered the seeds of love at the bottom of the hearts of the rural people and every observer.

The deputy from Tabriz noted that the solid crowd along the 15-km welcome route for Hashemi-Rafsanjani should remove the crust of indifference from the eyes of those who work out of self interest. She added: The Muslim nation of Iran has repeatedly thwarted enemy plots by renewing its pledge of loyalty to its leaders. It has never for a moment departed from Islam and the revolution, and it has ceaselessly and passionately worked in support of those running the government on the path of the revolution and Islam.

The speaker discussed the great blessings from the president of the republic's trip. She said: An example is the project to convert dry farming to irrigated farming. With its implementation, full use will be made of Azerbaijan's agricultural capacity, and this project will have its greatest practical effect in the current life of the rural people. The top request from the rural people is that this project's implementation be expedited.

The speaker noted that the great projects that were either begun or put into operation on this trip are numerous. She said emphatically: No matter how much we do for these good people of ours, we still will not have reciprocated their kindness.

The deputy from Tabriz continued: During the days when the president of the republic was among the earnest crowds of Azeri-speaking people, some of the press in the Republic of Azerbaijan demonstrated their subservience to imperialism again, saying that Armenian forces have gathered in Iran claiming they have the support of the Azeri-speaking people of Iran.

As the deputy from Tabriz, I say that publications such as AZADLIQ, the organ of the Republic of Azerbaijan People's Front, and MA URASIA must realize that a country where the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult and its leadership are in the capable hands of a people who were born under the skies of Azerbaijan, where the government's cabinet has Azeri-speaking ministers and more than 45 parliamentary seats are held by members from Azeri-speaking provinces, has absolutely no need for help from you who claim to support the people.

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At the end of her speech she said: Islamic Iran has a history of basiji lions who will respond to the smallest covetous glance at their soil with naked swords.

Barat 'Ali Mohammadi-Far, Deputy From Sonqor-e Kolya'i

The final speaker was Mohammadi-Far, deputy from Sonqor-e Kolya'i. During his speech he said: The message from the martyrs of 7 Tir is that this revolution is Islamic.

Addressing the minister of roads and transportation, he said: About 11 years ago the national project to build the road from Sonqor to Bistun was assigned to the contractors. If seven kilometers of work per day had been done, it would have been finished years ago.

In the same regard, he discussed the fact that so far vague answers have been given, and added: The road situation has been such for the past 17 years that if a sick person needs to be driven quickly to the province center, he will die on the way.

He issued a memo to the Kermanshah General Office of Roads and Transportation on the construction of the road from Sonqor to one of the areas in his electoral district. Continuing, he discussed the 80 percent salary increase for managers and asked officials that this increase be divided in such a way that it takes all government workers into consideration, because there is no difference between the stomachs of the dependents of government staff workers and those of the dependents of high officials.

Mohammadi-Far also called for the payment of 100 to 120 education and training workers in the Province of Kermanshah, just as has been done in the neighboring provinces. At the end of his speech he expressed regret at the statements by irresponsible and unaware people that brought the judiciary into question, and he asked the chief of the judiciary to give full support to the chief of the Kermanshah judiciary and its noble judges.

Legislation

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the very urgent motion to stabilize the admissions capacity for medical group students, concerning which the motion's opponents and supporters gave their views and discussed the motion's defects and virtues.

Dr. 'Abd-Khoda'i, speaking in support of the bill, said: How is it authorized under religious law that those who have toiled are unable to participate in the physician's group? I am putting the Ministry of Health Care and Treatment on trial. Why have you closed the door to the university on these children? If you don't want to destroy your future medical market, why are you doing this?

He discussed the nation's severe shortage of physicians, and added: Our medical doctors are already busier than the bakeries. Some of our heart patients are on six-month waiting lists. You say capacity is high, but this is short-sighted. The people of our nation are not laboratory rats to be treated by your residents.

Dr. Vahid Dastjerdi spoke as an opponent to the motion. He said: By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan we will have about 70,000 physicians. How many physicians are we going to train? If we have problems with physicians in some deprived regions, the problem will be solved by the end of the Five-Year Plan.

Dr. Marandi, minister of health care and treatment, said concerning this motion: The Plan and Budget Organization wrote a letter telling us that our numbers and figures for admitting students have not been approved and therefore have not been used in the budget. They even asked us to admit 17,000 fewer people each year. We did not even implement this reduction in the competitive admissions examinations. Our problem is therefore the financial burden, and you must think about that.

He also said: We are not saying we do not have a shortage of physicians. We are saying that some of our problems will not be solved with physicians. If we reduce this capacity this year, we will have no problem because a large number of our medical students are graduating.

After remarks by one of the motion's authors, the general form of it was put to a vote and approved.

It is worth mentioning that the details of the very urgent motion will be presented at today's (Wednesday's) open session.

Official Views Supervisory Role of Majles

95LA0291A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 May 95 p 3

[Interview with Engineer 'Ali Yusefpur, deputy from Ardal and Fargan and vice chairman of the Majles Councils and Internal Affairs Committee, by unidentified RESALAT correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—One of the oversight tools of the Majles in supervising the executive organizations is the implementation of Articles 76 and 88 of the Constitution. Article 76 states that the Majles has the right to conduct inquiry and investigation into**

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all affairs of the country. Article 88 states that in every case in which at least one-fourth of the total number of deputies ask a question of the president or each of the deputies of the ministers about one of their duties, the president or the minister, as the case may be, is obliged to come to the Majles and respond to the question of the deputy.

The Fourth Majles has used these two tools well in order to carry out its supervision. Eng. 'Ali Yusefpur, the deputy from Ardal and Fargan and vice chairman of the Councils and Internal Affairs Committee of the Majles, in an interview with our correspondent explained the various dimensions of this oversight tool of the Majles. The interview follows.

[RESALAT] What tools does the Majles have at its disposal to oversee the executive organizations?

[Yusefpur] Oversight is an important principle and guarantees the proper implementation of laws in the country. In the Constitution, the issue of supervision over the proper implementation of laws is conferred on the Judicial Branch, but the Majles also has some tools at its disposal. First, if the deputies face a problem, they can give legal reminders to the minister and related organization. Second, the Constitution allows the deputies to question the president or the ministers about the implementation of their duties. Third, based on Article 76, the Constitution allows the deputy to have the right of inquiry and investigation into all affairs of the country.

Moreover, Articles 88 and 90 and the Accounting Committees are Majles oversight tools used to investigate issues.

[RESALAT] One of the goals of the Fourth Majles is supervision over the executive officials. In your opinion, to what extent has this task been successful?

[Yusefpur] In the First to Third Majleses, due to the war and the problems of the early years of the victory of the revolution, the Majles did not engage in the issue of oversight a great deal, and because of the lack of laws paid less attention to this issue. In order to prevent violations by organizations and personal preference on the part of the mangers of organizations, however, the Fourth Majles decided to place more importance on supervision. One of the oversight tools is the request for inquiry and investigation, which has been used a great deal in this term. In the Fourth Majles, more than 25 requests for inquiry and investigation were made by the deputies.

In five cases that were announced, which were related to the Mashhad incident, the reconstruction problems of Kermanshah, steel, the Voice and Vision, and the Haj and Pilgrimage Organization, the violators were dealt with.

In five cases, a request was made for withdrawal.

For example, I had requested inquiry and investigation about taxes, but when the related minister admitted the problem and agreed to eliminate it, I withdrew my request.

The remaining 15 cases are on the agenda of the committees.

Among the results of the inquiry and investigation that have been announced, the most important concerned the Voice and Vision Organization. Because of the weaknesses that at that time existed in the management of this great cultural center, I requested it, it was ratified by the Majles, and after nine months of hard work, the results were read in the Majles resulting in a change in the management. An important point in carrying out inquiry and investigation is the related committee. The more interest, belief, and perseverance exists, the more positive results will ensue. There were cases whose results did not satisfy the requesters, such as the report on steel. The report that was prepared by the Industries and Mines Committee was not accepted by the requesters and the speaker of the Majles and ultimately resulted in the interpellation of the minister of mines and metals.

[RESALAT] What is the most important inquiry and investigation request that is on the agenda of the Majles?

[Yusefpur] The request concerning the Central Bank, which is now being examined in the Economic Affairs and Finance Committee. According to the Majles by-laws, when a deputy requests inquiry and investigation, the related committee is responsible to provide the requester with the necessary documents. At the present time, I am examining the documents, and if I am not satisfied, I will announce my views to the committee in order for a decision to be made in the committee. In this request, the operations of the Central Bank will be examined from 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] to 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] in order to clarify its positive and negative points.

[RESALAT] Can the Majles also conduct inquiry and investigation of organizations that function under the supervision of the grand leader?

[Yusefpur] The officials of some executive organizations become upset as soon as the Majles engages in questioning or requests inquiry and investigation and say that this will weaken the management, but the grand

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leader calls special attention to the principle of oversight. When he was asked about the request concerning the inquiry and investigation of the Foundation for Self-Sacrificers, he said that, except for the Armed Forces, which has its own special oversight system, the Majles may conduct inquiry and investigation regarding all issues and institutions and was true regarding the Voice and Vision, which is also under the supervision of the grand leader. This attitude of his honor must be a model for other officials, so that in cases when the Majles wants to perform its legal duties, they react openly and enthusiastically.

[RESALAT] How many questions have been posed to the ministers in the Fourth Majles?

[Yusefpur] So far in the Fourth Majles, 64 questions have been posed to the ministers, which have been discussed in the open sessions. This shows the deputies' attention and sensitivity to the issues and problems in the country. Of course, these are in addition to the questions that have been examined in the committees.

[RESALAT] Are the results of the inquiries and investigations mandatory to be implemented? If not, what should be done to eliminate the problem?

[Yusefpur] Before the internal bylaws of the Majles were amended, it was not clear where the results of the inquiry and investigation had to be submitted, but after the bylaws were amended, the reports after being read in the Majles will be given to the Article 90 Committee, and from there they are sent to the Judicial Branch. Besides mandatory implementation, conducting inquiry and investigation results in the prevention of many violations. In my opinion, the inquiry and investigation bylaws must be amended in a way that when the Inquiry and Investigation Committee, simultaneous with the investigation, comes across a violation, it can submit it as a legal case to the Article 90 Committee to be sent to the Judicial Branch and the court.

Deputy Comments on Majles' Power, Authority

95LA0292A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Jun 95 p 15

[Interview with Mohsen Kuhkan, deputy from Zarrinshahr and Mobarakeh and a member of the Articles 88 and 90 Committee, by unidentified RESALAT correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—Mr. Mohsen Kuhkan, deputy from Zarrinshahr and Mobarakeh and member of the Articles 88 and 90 Committee, in an interview responded to our questions concerning the power and authority given to the Majles in the Constitution and the comparison of the Majles with other parliaments in the world. The text of the interview follows:**

[RESALAT] What power and authority is the Majles given in the Constitution?

[Kuhkan] Article 7 of the Constitution names the Majles as one of the decisionmaking organs of the country, and Article 54 makes it the duty of the Accounting Office to investigate all the accounts of the ministries and government establishments and companies and report the settlement of the budget to the Majles. Article 57, mentioning the separation of powers, states the independence of the Legislative Branch. Article 63 of the Constitution points to the direct election of the deputies by secret ballot and states that at no time should the country be without a Majles. Article 65 states that the Majles sessions are official with two-thirds of the total number of deputies, and Article 69 states that the Majles discussions are open and broadcast through the official radio and newspaper of the country. Later articles point out the domain of legislation as established in the Constitution and state that the Majles cannot legislate a law that is contrary to the principles and rules of the official religion of the country or the Constitution.

In Article 76 of the Constitution, the right for inquiry and investigation is given to the Majles; and according to Article 77, all international treaties, letters of exchange, contracts, and agreements must be ratified by the Majles. In Article 78, any sort of change in the border is prohibited, except for minor improvements in the interest of the country, with the ratification by four-fifths of the Majles deputies.

Article 79 mentions the prohibition against establishing marital law and a related article, the approval of foreign loans by the Majles; Article 81mentions absolute prohibition against giving a license to foreigners to establish companies; Article 82 mentions prohibition against hiring foreign experts, except in necessary cases, with the approval of the Majles; and Article 84 mentions considering the deputy to be responsible before the whole nation and having permission to express opinions on foreign and domestic issues.

Article 86 states that a deputy is free in performing his duty, in expressing opinions, and in casting his vote, and a deputy cannot be prosecuted for making a statement. Article 87 refers to the ministers' obtaining a vote of confidence from the Majles, and Article 88 refers to the procedures to impeach a minister upon the request of at least 10 deputies. Article 90 states that anyone who has a complaint about the Majles, the Executive Branch, or the Judicial Branch may submit his complaint to the Majles, and the Majles is responsible for investigating these complaints and giving a satisfactory response.

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By studying the articles of the Constitution, we can understand the precise place of the Majles in the Islamic regime.

[RESALAT] How does the authority of the Majles in Iran compare with that of the parliaments of other countries?

[Kuhkan] In studying the formation of the legislative parliaments in the world, we find important weak points.

1. In some countries, there is a system of two parliaments, through which, by dividing the authority and function, the necessary unity and power is removed from the legislative branch, to some extent.

2. In many countries, the legislative branch is at the head of the executive pyramid, and the president has certain authority, such as vetoing the ratifications and even dissolving the parliament.

3. In some countries, the deputies are not elected directly by the secret ballot of the people. For this reason, interference by other branches has an effect in the fate of the legislative branch.

Given these descriptions, in Iran, where the deputies are elected directly by the people and by secret ballot, and according to Article 57, the three branches are independent from one another, and in addition a deputy is free in performing his duties and expressing opinions and voting, a deputy cannot be prosecuted, and Majles deputies have the right to impeach a minister or the Cabinet and dismiss them, truly we must admit that the authority given to the Majles in the Constitution is very strong and desirable.

[RESALAT] How can the Majles deputies perform their duties in the best possible manner?

[Kuhkan] Necessary care must be taken in legislation in order for the ratifications to be coherent and in line with the policies to achieve the greater goals of the country. The deputies must avoid factional considerations and follow the motto of integrity. Care must be taken so that all affairs progress according to the plan and the law.

The management weakness that occurs at the top of the executive organizations must not be ignored. They should not conduct the affairs by merely recommending ways to treat problems, and while observing the dignity of individuals, they should not neglect their slightest error in the affairs related to the people. Wherever there is need for advice, they should give it kindly, and where they should react, perform their duty oblivious to all else. In a word, they should be examples of the statement by the commander of the faithful, who said: A person does not do God's command unless:

1. He does not compromise.
2. He does not try to be like the corrupt.
3. He does not follow greed.

Speaker Addresses 11 Jun Majles Session

95LA0289A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] **The Speaker of the Majles in Today's Open Session**

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—Today's conditions in the Islamic World are like those of the time of Imam Hoseyn. We must stand up against oppression, deviation, and evil.

In the open session of the Majles this morning, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Majles, made this statement in the enthusiastic presence of the revolutionary people at the ceremonies for the 'Ashura of Hoseyn and the anniversary of the death of the late Imam and, referring to the statements of the grand leader regarding the goals of the 'Ashura uprising, said: Today, injustice exists on a larger scale in the world, and we hope the Muslims of the world, benefiting from the statements of the grand leader, stand up against injustice and evil.

Referring to the hostility of the U.S. Government against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: The government of Clinton has started a vast wave of hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran a few months ago. These hostilities have no logical justification or chance to succeed.

Referring to the letter of 200 U.S. congressional representatives, who endorsed the hostile policy of Clinton against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the speaker of the Majles said: The U.S. congressmen have asked the government of Clinton to escalate its terrorist actions against the Iranian people and support the terrorist mini-group whose crimes are evident in every alley and street in Iran.

He added: By supporting a terrorist mini-group and the terrorist government of Israel that kidnaps a Lebanese cleric from his home and massacres the worshippers in a mosque, the U.S. Government claims to be supporting human rights and accuses Iran of violating human rights and being a terrorist. These contradictions are inexplicable.

He said: What is astonishing is the U.S. people. Do they not know what their government is doing in the world? Do they not know that the product of their democracy is a dictatorship worse than that of the Nazis?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri pointed out: The U.S. people must know who they have elected as their congress-

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men. Should their congressmen support terrorists, or should they think about the people of the United States, who have no security and are overcome by corruption, decadence, terrorism, and terror?

Continuing, he referred to the enthusiastic presence of the people of Iran in the mourning for the 'Ashura of Hoseyn and said: Our nation this year participated more enthusiastically than in the past in mourning the 'Ashura of Hoseyn, and this was reminiscent of the presence of the people on 'Ashura in 1357 [1978].

He added: On 'Ashura in 1357, the mourning recitations and slogans were against the shah's regime. This year on 'Ashura, the mourning recitations have changed to slogans against the United States.

The speaker of the Majles pointed out: By relying on God, we shall continue our path, and the more the pressure is put on us, the more the unity of the nation will increase and the stronger the spirit of construction in the country will become.

Also, referring to the escalation of the crimes of the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri said: Unfortunately, the crimes of the Serbs in Bosnia are becoming the norm, and these crimes have disgraced the United Nations and other international assemblies.

He added: The Muslim people of Bosnia are defending themselves virtuously against the Serbian crimes, with bravery and self-sacrifice, and are living under the worst conditions.

He pointed out: The crimes of the Serbs in Bosnia have taken most tragic dimensions and, even after the taking the UN soldiers hostage, the Serbs have ridiculed this organization and all the organizations that claim concern for human rights.

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